M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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(3) Initials of the Referencer__________

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2922 Press/Mis.

155-156

Dated 6 9 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 155. Read the following letter from the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Cumbum, 14th August 1869, No. 1,134 :—

In continuation of my letter, No. 924, of the 20th July 1869, I have the honour to report that the two persons suspected of stealing Lieutenant Pennycuick's cash box were brought before the Joint-Magistrate, but the evidence was insufficient to lead to their conviction. Another man, a lascar that belonged to the camp, absented himself, and it was rumoured that he was spending money freely: when this was known he was followed up to a certain point, but there traces of him ceased; and there now appears no chance of the thief being detected.

This robbery has exposed the great risk that there always has been in the conveyance of cash to the camp on the hills. Two lascars, paid 7 Rupees a month, on temporary employment, have had to convey sums of 500 or 1,000 Rupees from the Pereacolum Treasury to Cumbum, and thence up the ghaut, a distance of about fifty miles; the money being in their charge for at least two nights on the way. Thus, if the two men had at any time agreed to carry off the money from Pereacolum, they would have had three clear days' start, before any suspicion would arise on the hill camp, fifty miles off. But likewise, supposing the strictest honesty on the part of the lascars, the fact must have been well known that considerable sums in cash were despatched in charge of the two men, and along the road on which there is comparatively little traffic, and passing through jungle and hilly country, an opportunity would easily be found by robbers to waylay the lascars and escape with the money. The lascars have already expressed their fears as to the danger of their going about the country without protection, and asked for arms for themselves, or for a guard to accompany them. I therefore think it is necessary that security should be ensured, by discontinuing the services of lascars for conveyance of money, and that Police Constables should be employed in future on this duty. Money will be required probably not more than twice in a month, and should be given over to the Police at the Pereacolum Treasury, and brought by them to the camp above the ghaut. I have just come down from the camp, where this matter had been discussed, and Lieutenant Pennycuick considers that he does not require a guard of the Police stationed on the hills; he has a large iron-bound box with a strong padlock, which could neither be carried away, nor broken open, without the knowledge of the servants, lascars, or coolies encamped about the place. Hence, I recommend that the Police department should convey cash from Pereacolum, to be handed over to one of the officers on the hills at such times as they require to draw money, the charge of the Constables' pay being debited to the Ghaut Works.

2. As regards the money that has been lost, Rupees 436-8-0, in the ordinary routine of departmental duty an officer would have been personally responsible, as acting in contravention of the rules, by having several hundred rupees in his possession; he should make payments to such amount by cheques, and would be blamable for the mere fact of having the money in his possession. The present case, however, is quite exceptional; the Officer on the Perryaur Ghaut Works *must* have cash in his possession, and though I consider Lieutenant Pennycuick committed an error in judgment in using a small box rather than putting himself to

some inconvenience with a large chest, I would ask the Government to take into consideration the circumstances of this officer's having no cashier, or establishment, to make payments, and treat the deficit as a contingency arising from the peculiar nature of the works on which he is engaged.

No. 156. ORDER THEREON, 6th September 1869, No. 2,922.

ACCOUNT, No. 12.

As it appears from these papers that, owing to the exceptional character of the locality in which the Perryaur Ghaut operations are in progress, the Officer in charge finds it absolutely necessary to make all his payments in cash instead of by cheques, and that the nearest treasury at Pereacolum being fifty miles distant, he is necessitated to keep considerable sums of money in his possession, His Excellency the Governor in Council will not object to authorize the sum of Rupees 436-8-0, which is reported to have been stolen from Lieutenant Pennycuick's tent on the night of the 24th June last, being written off to "profit and loss."

2. Looking to the undoubted insecurity of the mode in which money is at present conveyed from the Pereacolum Treasury to the hills, the Government concur with the Superintending Engineer in considering it necessary that the Police should assist in its transmission, and, with a view to giving effect to this arrangement, these papers will be communicated to the Judicial Department for the issue of the necessary orders, it being understood that the pay of the Police Constables who may be employed will be chargeable to the Perryaur Ghaut Works.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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No. 1134

Camp Cumbum
14th August 1869

From

Captain H. L. Prendergast R.E.
Officiating Superintending Engineer
8th Division

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.
Madras

Sir,

In continuation of my Letter No. 924 of the 20th July 1869, I have the honor to report, that the 2 persons suspected of stealing Lieutenant Pennycuick's Cash box were brought before the Joint Magistrate: but the evidence was insufficient, to lead to their Conviction - Another man, a lascar, that belonged to the Camp, absented himself; and it was rumoured that he was spending money freely: when this was known he was followed up to a certain point: but there, traces of him ceased: and there now appears no chance of the thief being detected. —

This

This robbery has exposed the great risk that there always has been, in the Conveyance of Cash to the Camp on the hills - Two lascars, paid 7 Rupees a month, on temporary employment, have had to Convey sums of 500 or 1000 Rupees, from the Parea-Colum Treasury, to Cumbum, and thence up the Ghaut: a distance of about 50 miles - the money being in their charge for at least 2 nights on the way. Thus, if the 2 men had at any time, agreed to Carry off the money from Pareacolum; they would have had 3 clear days start before any suspecion would arise on the hill Camp, 50 miles off. But likewise, supposing the strictest honesty on the part of the lascars: the fact must have been well known, that Considerable sums in Cash, were despatched in charge of the 2 men; and along the road, on which there is Comparatively little traffice, and passing thro jungle, and hilly Country, an opportunity would easily

be found by robbers to waylay the lascars, and escape with the money. The lascars have already expressed their fears, as to the danger of their going about the Country without protection; and asked for arms for themselves, or for a guard to accompany them. I therefore think it is necessary that security should be ensured, by discontinuing the services of lascars for Conveyance of money; and that Police Constables should be employed in future on this duty - Money will be required probably not more than twice in a month: and should be given over to the Police at the Pareacolum Treasury, and brought by them to the Camp above the Ghaut - I have just come down from the Camp, where this matter has been discussed and Lieutenant Pennycuick Considers that he does not require a guard of the Police, stationed on the hills: he has a large iron-bound box with a strong padlock; which Could neither be carried away, nor broken open, without the

knowledge

knowledge of the servants, lascars or Coolies encamped about the place. Hence, I recommend that the Police Department should convey Cash from Pareacolum to be handed over to one of the Officers on the hills, at such times as they require to draw money; the charge of the Constables' pay being debited to the Ghaut works.

2. As regards the money that has been lost, Rupees 4136 – 8 – ", in the ordinary routine of Departmental duty, an Officer would have been personally responsible, as acting in contravention of the rules, by having several hundred rupees in his possession: he should make payments to such amount by Cheques, and would be blameable for the mere fact of having the money in his possession. The present Case however is quite exceptional; the Officer on the Perryaur Ghaut works must have Cash in his possession; and though I consider Lieutenant Pennycuick Committed an

713

error in judgment, in using a small box rather than putting himself to some inconvenience with a large chest. I would ask the Government to take into Consideration the Circumstances of this Officer's having no Casher, or establishment to make payments, and treat the defecit: as a Contingency arising from the peculiar nature of the works on which he is engaged. —

I have &c.

Chas W. Pendergast. Captain R.E.,
Offs. Superintending Engineer
8th Division

P. W. 1869 Dept.
No. 1134

(21)

From
No. 3504
The Offg. Superintending Engr.
8th Division.

To
The Secretary to Govt.
D. P. W.
Madras.

Dated 14th August 1869.
Received 19 " "

Reports the result of the enquiry by the Magistrate of the Case of Robbery of Lieutenant Pennycuick's Cash Chest; Suggests the employment of Police Constables, for conveying money from Paramcolum Treasury to the Ghaut; and requests to treat the loss of money, as a Contingency arising from the peculiar nature of the works, on which Lieutenant Pennycuick is engaged -

No. 2922 - 6th Septr. 69.

C. 28th Augt 1869 R. 27th.

913

(Acct)

Circulate

P. W. Dept.

No. 2922

Proceedings of the Madras Govt. under date the 6th Sept./69.

Read the following:—

From the Offg. Supg. Engr. of the 8th Division — (A.E. No. 1134 d/ 14th Augt/69)

As it appears from these papers that, owing to the exceptional character of the locality in which the Perryar Ghat operations are in progress, the Officer in charge finds it absolutely necessary to make all his payments in cash instead of by cheques, and that the nearest treasury at Periacolum being 50 miles distant, he is necessitated to keep considerable sums of money in his possession,

N
WOA

His

His Excellency the Governor in Council will not object to authorize the sum of Rs: 436-8, which is reported to have been stolen from Lieut. Pennycuick's tent on the night of the 24th June last, being written off to Profit and Loss.

Looking to the undoubted insecurity of the mode in which money is at present conveyed from the Periacolum treasury to the hills, the Govt. concur with the Supe Engineer in considering it necessary that the Police should assist in its transmission, and, with a view to giving effect

to this arrangement, these papers will be communicated to the Judicial Dept. for the issue of the necessary orders, it being understood that the pay of the Police Constables who may be employed will be chargeable to the Perryar Project Works.

[illegible]

To Supg. Engr. 8th Dn.
" Controller, Pr. accts.
" Jud. Dept.

Despd. 7/9/93.

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(21)

14.12.13

No 3564

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr.
8th. Division

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 6 Septr. 1869, No. 2922

[illegible]

Nos. 155-156

"Profit and Loss" Permission granted for writing off to "Profit & Loss" the sum of Rs 436-8-0 which is reported to have been stolen from ~~the~~ the tent of Lieut. Pennycuick, Ex Engr on Special duty in the Madura Dist; and the Judicial Dept requested to give the necessary orders for the Police rendering assistance in the transmission of money to the Perryaur Project Works.